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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/575,892	04/14/2006	Mitsuru Iwasaki	0470840137	5511
22428	7590	12/12/2006	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER LLP			DUONG, THO V	
SUITE 500			ART UNIT	
3000 K STREET NW			PAPER NUMBER	
WASHINGTON, DC 20007			3744	

DATE MAILED: 12/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/575,892

Applicant(s)

IWASAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Tho v. Duong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5 and 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/14/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis (US 6,237,680) in view of Blankenberger et al. (US 5,355,941). Davis discloses (figures 4-5) a countercurrent heat exchanger comprising a pair of heat exchanger cores (90,91) having multiple tubes and fins which are arranged alternatively, the heat exchanger cores being arranged next to each other in a dept direction; a U-turn intermediate tank (82) connected with one end sides of the tubes; an inflow side tank (77) connected with other sides of the tubes; and an outflow side tank (79) formed separated from the inflow side tank; the outflow side tank formed to be separated from the inflow-side tank, the outflow side tank being connected with the other end sides of the tube contained in the other heat exchanger cores. Since the inflow tank, the outflow tank, the first core and the second core are separated from each other, these heat exchanger cores can expand and contract independently from each other with respect to the intermediate tank. Davis substantially discloses all of applicant's claimed invention as discussed above except for the limitation that the tanks are independently attached to the vehicle body side so that the heat exchanger cores can expand and contract independent from each other. Blankenberger discloses (figures 1 and 2) a heat exchanger mounted in a vehicle, wherein each of the tanks are independently mounted to the vehicle and each header mounts to the vehicle through an

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elastically supporting member (38) for a purpose of providing insulation against noise, vibration and harshness between the heat exchanger and the vehicle. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Blankenberger's teaching in Davis's heat exchanger for a purpose of providing insulation against noise, vibration and harshness between the heat exchanger and the vehicle.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-3 and 5-6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Guyomard et al. (US 6,672,416) discloses a device for fixing a heat exchanger on a motor vehicle.

Lee et al. (US 6,745,827) discloses a heat exchanger.

Hoshino et al. (US 6,536,517) discloses an evaporator.

Tanabe (US 5,314,013) discloses a heat exchanger having a U-shape manifold.

Halstead et al. (US 5,348,081) discloses a high capacity automotive condenser.

Hausmann (US 6,199,401) discloses a distributing/collecting tank for a dual flow evaporator.

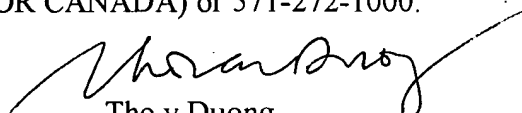
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Guyomard et al. (US 6,612,387) discloses a device for directly mounting a heat exchanger on a motor vehicle.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho v. Duong whose telephone number is 571-272-4793. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tyler J. Cheryl can be reached on 571-272-4834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Tho v Duong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3744



TD
November 29, 2006